

The Power of Prayer for “Kings and All Those in Authority”

I Timothy 2:1-4

- I. **God releases the authority of His kingdom through the preaching, prayers, and kind actions of His people (Matthew 10:5-8).**
 - A. Like the great prophet Jeremiah, we also have been given authority to speak words of prayer and prophecy over the nations. The words Jeremiah spoke literally came to pass over a period of many years, charting the destiny of Israel and the surrounding nations (Jeremiah 1:9,10).
 - B. Today God gives authority to bind and loose many things through prayer, including things concerning our governing authorities (Matthew 18:18-20; 21:12-13, 21-22).

- II. **Praying for our civil leaders (I Timothy 2:1-6)**
 - A. All the activity in I Timothy 2:1 can be summarized by the word, prayer.
 - B. The result of praying for kings and all those in authority (I Timothy 2:2) is “that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness,” which pleases God (I Timothy 2:3) and causes people to be saved (I Timothy 2:4).
 - C. The framers of our U.S. Constitution believed good government was only possible through the protection of God. We see in I Timothy 2:1-2 the unique place God gives Christians to make good government happen.
 - D. Clearly, good government is God’s will; and when we pray according to God’s will, He hears and answers us (I John 5:14-15).

- III. **Rulers are God’s agents, including the “lowliest of people”**
 - A. As part of the government of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Daniel and his friends were threatened with execution unless they revealed and interpreted a dream the king had. Daniel prayed, and God revealed to him the dream and its meaning (Daniel 2:1-6, 10-30).
 - B. Later Daniel also interpreted another dream and told the king that he would be insane for seven years “so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth, and gives them to anyone He wishes, and sets over them the lowliest of people” (Daniel 4:17). After the King was humbled for seven years, he repented and glorified God. God can also change the hearts of leaders in our day in response to our prayers and revelation (Daniel 4:34-37).

- IV. **Cyrus the Persian eventually came and removed the Babylonians. When Cyrus came into power, the prayer Daniel had prayed for 70 years was finally answered. Cyrus gave permission to rebuild Israel, and, most importantly, to rebuild the temple.**
 - A. One reason God gave Israel a temple was to pray for the nation in times of trouble (II Chronicles 7:11-16).
 - B. In the New Testament, the Church picks up the prayer mantle by simply gathering together for prayer in Jesus’ name (Matthew 18:18-20). We are the new temple God has chosen to pray for the world’s troubles. (I Corinthians 3:16-17).
 - C. In David’s description of good government, we get a clear vision of why we should pray so much for governing authorities (II Samuel 23:1-4).

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